

C540AD

Justinian persuaded two Persian monks to smuggle a few silk-worm eggs into the city of Constantinople in a hollow bamboo stem - and so established Constantinople's silk industry.

540

While Belisarius was reconquering Italy from the Ostrogoths, Shah Khosrow invaded Syria and Justinian repurchased peace in 545 and again in 562

1st month 540

Theudobert offered Frunkish help to Ravenna in exchange for half of Italy in return for the expulsion of Belisarius. VITIGIS declined. Then the great granary at Ravenna burned down. The Goths suspected Queen MATASUNTHA. Vitigis tried to negotiate with Justinian.

Belisarius declined to sign the treaty.

He succeeded in manoeuvring

Vitigis and his adherents into a position that gave them no choice but to surrender, since they were already suffering a terrible famine.

May 540

Belisarius and the imperial army
marched into Ravenna unopposed; took
capture the Gothic king and his army

After the surrender of Ravenna, large numbers of cospadane (volts) were dismissed to return. Belisarius sent them home as imperial subjects without forcing them to hand over any of their personal property, as the garrison of Auximium had had to do. Belisarius's Army had captured rich Booty in Ravenna. Belisarius took all the precious objects to his emperor in Constantinople. He also

led before the emperor the Ostrogothic Palace nobility
and its retainers a band of the very best troops,
who were sent immediately to the Persian
frontier. There was Vitiges + wife, his son from
1st marriage; son & daughter of the former
THURINGIAN Queen AMALABERGA, and the
children of HILDEBAD. Hildebad himself was
the leader of the Transpadane Goths who had not
yet surrendered.

North of the Po, some Goths fought on. Thus
TICINUM-Paria was finally in the hands of
URACAS

540-600

Duncan; Cal

Between 540 and 600, six known plagues struck major Mediterranean cities in the East & West, wiping out many, many thousands of people.

BENEDICT'S RULE started with the Christian Calendar as it then existed, with its saint's days, holy days, celebrations, and feasts. He then assigned tasks & duties to virtually every day of the year, using as his inspiration the ROMAN ARMY'S SYSTEM of loosely dividing the day into hours, with daily work, rotating on the 3rd 6th, and 9th hours (morning, noon and afternoon). Benedict

ordered these 3 key points announced
each day in the monastery. He also
delineated canonical hours that did not
have to be announced: dawn (matutina),
sunrise (prima hora), sunset (vespers), and
the coming of complete darkness at night
(completorium). He listed certain psalms
to be read each day and at the beginning of
the seven named hours so that everyone
would know the correct hour and when
it began. He fixed precise hours for waking,
eating, working, and resting.

540

Duncan, Cal

Cassiodorus traveled to Constantinople
plunging into the intellectual
life of the Byzantine Capital, He
stayed for a decade and a half
returning in 554 to Italy

540

Duncan: Cal

Abbot Benedict of Nursia
The Benedictine Rule

Benedict:

a Kalendis Novembribus = 1 November

Kalendas Octubres = 1 Oct.

Benedict's system meant that Christian monks for centuries would live under Rome's Civil Calendar and the Roman Army's day imposed far more strictly than by the old empire's magistrates and generals.

"Idleness is an enemy of the soul"
wrote Benedict

eventually the Benedictine's sense of time
crept into everyday life and language

Q 540 AD

1912 Dates J-BK

King Arthur, Lucius ARTORIUS
CASTUS

He had a victory of Battle
of Badon Hill (c 540)

After Romans left Britain

540

Ravenna was on the point of falling
when Chosroes (Persia) in 540 placed
himself in northern Syria, where he
was not expected and captured
Antioch, whence he carried off
great spoils

540

Fall of Roenna.
Belisarius left Italy

540

Duncan; Cal

Abbot Benedict of Nursia in Umbria taught his monks to make clocks and to use them to tell time down to the hour.

In about 540, the year Ravenna fell to Justinian and Corisidorus moved to Constantinople, Benedict wrote a guide to what he considered proper worship, known as the BENEDICTINE RULE.

this included a table of hours setting out a strict list of duties, prayers, mealtimes, and ceremonies linked to a careful measuring of each hour of the day.

Wanting to be sure that the monks in Naples were saying the same Psalm at the same hour as those in Provence, he ordered that time be kept accurately and objectively by using the best clocks then available: the Sundial and water clock, and later the "Candle Clock"

URAIAS declined to be king. He supported
HILDEBAD who was a nephew of Theudis,
the king of the Visigoths. He was in command
of Verenna.

Hildebad had himself elevated to the
king of the Ostrogoths;

The Roman general Belisarius declined the
honor, because he was to emperor Justinian
by personal oath.

Belisarius sailed off for Constantinople

and the war began anew.

At first the kingdom of Helidab comprised just slightly more than a narrow strip of land between PAVIA and Verona and only 1000 Gothic warriors.

He attacked Torbosium - Tresso defended by the "impend" HERULLI, none other than the bands that left with Narso. I had been so eager to return home.

Helidab struck hard and annihilated the only Roman troops stationed north of the Po

His nephew TOTILA took over command in
THE VISO. The number of Goths supporting
Hildobad began to increase. In a short time
he controlled the two provinces of LIGURIA and
VENETIA.

As soon as Belisarius sailed for Constantinople
the imperial army lost many deserters. Many
went to the Goths.

540

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Persia declared war against Rome

Anlirch was captured

Ransom was exacted from chief
cities of western Asia Minor.
Truce concluded 545

540

1912 Dates J-BK

East Empire

Belisarius fought the East Goths
in Italy

540 AD

A gentle monk, BENEDICT wrote his guidelines for a Christian community, shaping monastic life and influencing Western society.